# 1964-65

# Los Angeles Lakers

# OFFICIAL GUIDE

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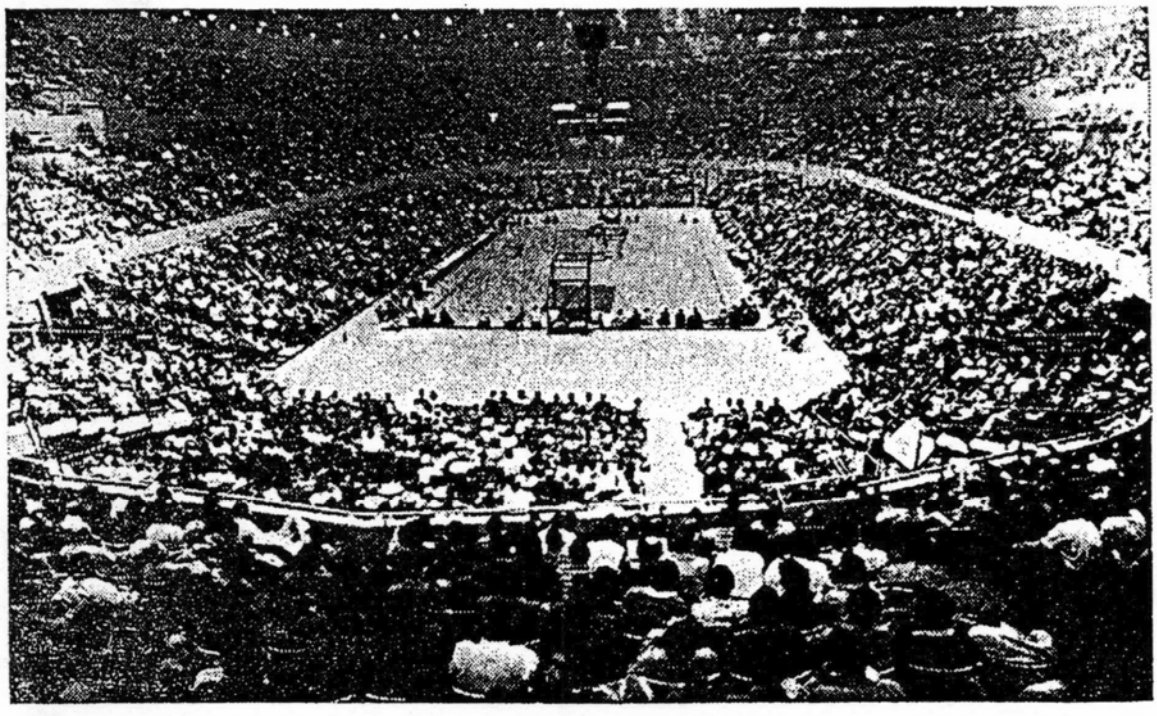
**LOS ANGELES SPORTS ARENA**

**Home of the Lakers**



**Capacity 15,100**

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THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS

The Memorial Sports Arena

3939 South Figueroa Street

Los Angeles, California 90037

RIchmond 9-7066

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert E. Short | President |
| Francis T. Ryan | Vice-President, Legal Counsel |
| Louis R. Mohs | General Manager |
| Fred A. Schaus | Head Coach |
| Cecil W. Cronkhite | Ticket Manager |
| Mitch R. Chortkoff | Publicity Manager |
| Paul Ryan | Group Sales Manager |
| Don Richman | Public Relations Consultant |
| Frank O'Neill | Trainer |
| Chick Hearn | Radio and TV Announcer |
| John Ramsey | Public Address Announcer |

ROBERT E. SHORT
PRESIDENT AND OWNER OF THE
LOS ANGELES LAKERS

In major league sports, there has seldom been a happier or more mutually understandable combination of a desire to be a "winner" than that embodied in the spirit and competitiveness of Laker owner and President Robert E. Short and the Laker management and players.

Mr. Short, still in his early 40's, is the president and owner of a multi-million dollar trucking corporation--one of the largest in the United States. Combined with this and other interests he is also a rabid sports fan wholeheartedly dedicated to exerting every effort to create a world's championship for Southern California fans of the Los Angeles Lakers.

His will to win in business applies equally to his will to win in sports.

Mr. Short has backed this spirit by actions as well as words. He was personally instrumental in obtaining the siguature of Elgin Baylor, then a collegian with one season of remaining eligibility, to the super-star's original pact. And he paid the largest cash price in the history of the NBA to secure the services of Dick Barnett from the Syracuse franchise.

Southern California fans' "adoption" of the Lakers is reciprocated in terms of the full effort expended by Mr. Short, the Laker management and players to produce the finest basketball team in the world to represent Los Angeles and Southern California.

## HISTORY OF THE LAKERS FRANCHISE

Holder of five World Championships and eight times divisional winners, the Lakers are respected throughout the National Basketball Association as one of the most talented and powerful teams ever to set foot on a basketball court.

A galaxy of stars studs the Lakers' past--the first being a legend in his own time, "Mr. Basketball" George Mikan. The others range from the stars of the early championships, Jim Pollard, Vern Mikkelson and Slater Martin to the present all-NBA standouts, Elgin Baylor and Jerry West.

In 1947, three Minneapolis businessmen created the Lakers when they purchased the defunct Detroit Falcons franchise for $15,000 and shifted their home to lake-studded Minneapolis, Minnesota--creating the name, "Lakers."

The team won the Western Division championship in its first season in the National Basketball League, and defeated Syracuse in a playoff, three games to one, to be declared champion of the world.

In May, 1948, after the Lakers first season, the National Basketball Association (then known as the Basketball Association of America) underwent a reorganization, and the Lakers left the old league to join what is today's present Major League Basketball organization.

The first two seasons produced two World's Championships. They resumed as world's champions in 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54. It was during this era that the Lakers became known as the "Yankees of Basketball" and cries went through the league, "Break up the Lakers."

Today, the Lakers are resurgent and their wholehearted acceptance and backing by Southern California fans has sent Laker morale and determination soaring.

Mikan, the bullish pivot man who dominated the sport in the late 1949's and early 1950's, remains a much-talked-about performer whenever the greats of the cage world are discussed.

Mikkelson became known as the "Great Dane" and Pollard performed superbly as a corner man, while Martin was one of the NBA's first great playmakers.

The feats of Baylor and West, the greatest scoring punch basketball has ever known, are well known by fans of the current era.

A great history with a promise of an even greater future. That's the story of the Lakers' franchise.

REVIEWING THE 1963-64 SEASON

There is only one key word to describe the 1963-64 season for the Los Angeles Lakers--injuries. For the second season in a row, disabling injuries to key players disrupted the Lakers' momentum as they were riding along in the first spot in the Western Division standings.

Two years ago, it was a pulled muscle which caused all-pro Jerry West to miss approximately one-third of the season--and last year it was an injury pattern which struck both of the Lakers' all-league super-stars, West and Elgin Baylor.

Baylor played the entire season at a below-par pace, due to the formation of calcium deposits just above his knees.

West broke his thumb about two-thirds of the way through the season, missing eight games. During that period, the absence of West, coupled with the below-par condition of Baylor, cost the club its first-place standing, and dropped them to third place--where the Lakers ultimately wound up.

However, the team still managed to draw a record share of fans to the plush Los Angeles Sports Arena.

And despite the injuries, there were a number of bright spots.

Baylor made the all-NBA team for his sixth consecutive year, despite the fact that he had his least-productive season since he was a rookie. With the entire NBA gaining in strength at the corner positions, this was quite a feat.

West, the lithe backcourt star, enjoyed his finest all-around campaign. He finished third in the league in scoring, third in assists, second in free throw percentage, and sixth in field goal percentage.

In addition, West was the second leading rebounder among all guards in the NBA, and was considered by Schaus as the club's best defensive backcourt man.

At the time of his injury, one opposing player noted: "I know all about his offensive feats, but the Lakers will miss him most on defense."

Another highlight of the 1963-64 season was the uncovering of a fine rookie, speedy, 6-2 guard Jim King. The former Tulsa University star was a constantly-improving player who gained the role of a starter in the final weeks of the season.

Two sophomores showed some improvement, LeRoy Ellis and Gene Wiley. Ellis, the more agile and better offensive threat of the 6-10 second-year men, split his playing time between the corner spot and the pivot. Wiley, a defensive standout, was exclusively a pivot man.

Other developments around the league last year proved interesting. San Francisco came up with a "new" Wilt Chamberlain, who led his team to a Western Division title, and finished fifth in the league in assists, compiling the highest total in history for a center.

In addition to Chamberlain, coach Alex Hannum alternated three giant front-line performers, 6-11 rookie Nate Thurmond, and 6-9 Wayne Hightower and 6-7 Tom Meschery. Whether or not a trend is indicated in this "redwood tree" alignment remains to be seen, but it seems likely that any team with two giants may provide its foes with some new headaches.

The Lakers, now looking forward to the new campaign, feel they are a contender for the World's Championship, and hope the injury jinx will stay away.

THE COACH'S CORNER...

by Fred Schaus

Perhaps the outstanding characteristic of the National Basketball Association as the Lakers head into the fifth season in Southern California is the factor of overall strength and balance throughout all nine teams.

I have been associated with the NBA as a player and coach for some nine seasons, stretching back to 1949, and I know for a certainty the league has never been as strong in player personnel as it will be this season, and more important, that player strength of which I speak is pretty well distributed over every team.

Today, I believe the NBA is in a position where any of 6 teams have a strong chance at the World's Championship, and to my regret perhaps, four of these teams are in our own Western Division.

Naturally, I feel the Lakers are one of those teams. I think you could shake the names of San Francisco, St. Louis, the recently-strengthened Baltimore Bullets and the Lakers in a hat and perhaps pick the final Western Division winner blindfolded with as much logic as any other method might provide.

San Francisco, with the tallest front-line in the history of the game, and the record of being defending champs, has to be rated the slight favorite in our division, but the Warriors only edged us out on the season series last year by a 7-5 margin. The Lakers always feel that with a strong effort they can handle the Warriors. But anything less than our strongest game leaves us far behind them.

The nucleus of the Lakers for the 1964-65 season will be built around pretty much the same players as it has been over the past couple of seasons, years in which we made strong runs at the Worlds' Championship. Elgin Baylor and Jerry West, two authentic super-stars, are called by Sports Illustrated magazine "the

most explosive one-two punch in the history of the game." In this estimate I fully concur.

Let me interject a personal note into this by saying that I seriously doubt that any coach, in any sport, has ever been privileged to work with two such superior performers who are more cooperative, more coachable, harder-working, or with a better attitude than Jerry and Elgin.

After West and Baylor, the brunt of the Laker attack will be carried by the reliable hard-working "regulars" who have been the supporting cast for our two all-pro choices for the past couple of seasons.

Rudy LaRusso, the hard-nosed Ivy Leaguer has been the "glue" who has held the club together during the past seasons when we've been struck by some unfortunate player loss. LaRusso is a coach's dream. Every night that he steps on the court, he "came to play." Rudy is a guy who'll give you 10 to 12 points a night, and 10 to 12 rebounds every game, and still play tough defense on such superior offensive performers as Bob Pettit, Jerry Lucas, Tom Heinsohn and the rest.

One of the great shooters in the history of the game has been a backcourt fixture for the past couple of seasons for the Lakers, Dick Barnett. In addition to being nearly a 20-point-a-game scorer, Dick, a rugged 6-4, 195-pounder, has turned in some notable defensive performances.

Our "twin bean-poles," LeRoy Ellis and Gene Wiley will be back again. Ellis, who remains at about the 215-pound mark despite all the steaks and milk-shakes we can get into him, will concentrate almost exclusively on playing the corner spot this coming season. When we go against San Francisco with a 7-1 center and a 6-11 forward, or Boston with a 6-9 center and a 7-0 forward, LeRoy's 6-10 will come in handy to supplement whoever plays the pivot spot for us.

In the pivot we'll be relying heavily on a stronger, huskier Gene Wiley. The

6-10 boy, who has been an outstanding defensive player for us on many occasions in the past two seasons, now weighs about 235 pounds, an increase of 25 pounds brought about by a body-building program.

Any discussion of our prospects must touch upon the 6-10 220-pound defensive star from the University of California, Darrall Imhoff. Here is a boy we bought from Detroit during the off-season, and it is my firm belief that Darrall has never reached the potential which he showed in college. In his four years in the NBA, Imhoff has always been forced to play on teams where scoring was required from the pivot spot.

On the Lakers, with excellent shooting from both front and backcourt positions, we can afford to ask our centers to give us rebounding and defense, and not worry too much about points. Imhoff, one of the most intelligent men in the game, has expressed great satisfaction at playing with a team in his home area, and I think his new attitude can be and will be a great asset to the Lakers this season.

Our draft choices reflect a couple of lads we feel are labeled "can't miss." Our number one choice, Walt Hazzard from UCLA, we feel is the outstanding play-making guard to come out of college in many, many years. Cotton Nash, an All-American at Kentucky, is a big kid, 6-6½ and 225 pounds, who is a fine shooter and moves well for his size.

The remainder of our squad may come from a "sleeper," seventh draft choice Steve Anstett of Portland U., a sturdy 6-7 rebounder, free agents Bob Warlick, a 6-4½ guard with a year of AAU experience, and Jerry Grote, 6-4, 225-pound alumnus of Los Angeles' Loyola U., and John Savage, our fifth draft selection.

Laker fans have come to expect a hustling, scrapping team, and one which is a title contender. I feel that we will field that type of team once again.

## LOS ANGELES LAKERS 1964-65 ROSTER

| No. | Name | Pos. | Birthday | Ht. | Wgt. | College | Pro Yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Dick Barnett | G | 5-5-36 | 6-4 | 195 | Tenn. St. | 5 |
| 12 | Gene Wiley | C | 11-12-37 | 6-10 | 230 | Wichita | 2 |
| 14 | Darrall Imhoff | C | 10-11-38 | 6-10 | 220 | California | 5 |
| 20 | Don Nelson | F | 5-15-40 | 6-6 | 210 | Iowa | 3 |
| 21 | Jim King | G | 2-7-41 | 6-2 | 177 | Tulsa | 2 |
| 22 | Elgin Baylor | F | 9-16-34 | 6-5 | 225 | Seattle | 7 |
| 25 | LeRoy Ellis | F | 3-10-40 | 6-10 | 212 | St. John's | 2 |
| 32 | Jerry Grote | G | 12-28-40 | 6-4 | 216 | Loyola | R |
| 33 | Cotton Nash | F | 7-24-42 | 6-6½ | 218 | Kentucky | R |
| 35 | Rudy LaRusso | F | 11-11-37 | 6-8 | 225 | Dartmouth | 6 |
| 44 | Jerry West | G | 5-28-38 | 6-3 | 180 | West Virginia | 5 |

(First Draft Choice-Member U.S. Olympic Team)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walt Hazzard | G | 6-2 | 175 | UCLA | |

Coach---Fred Schaus (Fifth Season) NBA Record--185 wins, 134 losses

FRED SCHAUS COACH Pro Exp: 5 years player
4 years coach
West Virginia University

What is it like to make the transition from college coaching to the NBA level?

Well, the record of Fred Schaus, Los Angeles Laker coach for the past four seasons, makes it clear that a successful mentor at one level can adjust to another level with pleasing results.

In his four seasons since he left a successful career as the head coach of West Virginia University, Schaus has led the Lakers to the second-best winning percentage in the National Basketball Association.

And it was no ready-made powerhouse which he inherited. Under the aegis of the Minneapolis franchise the previous season, most of the same players had compiled a lack-lustre record of 25 and 50.

Schaus was the first successful collegiate coach to be lured off campus to take up the reins of an NBA club. Laker General Manager Lou Mohs has often said "hiring Fred was the first vital move I made after taking over the head spot in Los Angeles, and it remains one of the most important."

The success of Schaus has inspired several other NBA clubs to copy the move, some successfully, some perhaps less so. The influx of former college coaches into the league brought in such names as Frank McGuire, Eddie Donovan, Harry Gallatin, Bob Feerick and Charley Wolf.

Schaus received his pro baptism as a player when he joined the Ft. Wayne Pistons in the 1949-50 season, leaving West Virginia without playing his Senior

season. Two years of Naval service during World War II had made him an older-than-average college student, and as a family man, Fred decided to turn pro.

In his first season, Schaus was selected to the second string all-NBA team, quite an honor for a rookie. He led the Pistons in scoring his first two seasons with the club.

After four seasons with Ft. Wayne, and one with the New York Knicks, the still-youthful Schaus was lured back to his Alma Mater to launch his coaching career.

In six seasons at Morgantown, he won six Southern Conference championships, while coaching two of the most famous All-Americans of all time, Rod Hundley and Jerry West. All three were later re-united as members of the Laker family.

Schaus also led the Mountaineers to the finals of the NCAA Championships in 1959, losing out by a single point to the California Bears.

In four seasons in the NBA's Western Division Schaus has compiled a mark of 185 wins, 134 losses. Two first place finishes, one second place and third is the record. In 1962, the Lakers came as close to unseating the perennial champion Boston Celtics as possible--losing in the overtime of the final game by three points.

All in all, the Laker coach, now firmly established in Los Angeles with his wife, Barbara, and two sons, has been a solid investment for the franchise, and for the entire NBA as well.

ELGIN BAYLOR | Forward | Pro Exp. 6 years

29 years, 6-5
225 lbs. | Seattle University

Although last season was one of Elgin Baylor's least productive ones, it offered solid proof of his status with his fellow pros. The Laker forward, who operated most of the year at perhaps 85% of his normal efficiency, still was selected on the all-NBA team for the sixth consecutive year.

Every season since he's been a pro, Baylor has been a first-team all-star.

The front half of the Lakers "one-two punch," Baylor was troubled with calcium deposits just above the knee joints last season, a situation which resulted in his knees becoming the most famous pair since the heyday of Marlene Dietrich.

Despite the painful handicap, Baylor still managed to finish sixth in league scoring with a 25.4 point-per-game average, 9th in rebounding with an average of 11.9 per game, 11th in assists with 4.4 per game, and 8th in free-throwing with a percentage of 80.4.

Everywhere the Lakers went last season, the question was--"How are Baylor's legs?"

Well, this is to report that they're coming along fine. Baylor spent the entire summer taking therapeutic exercises under the direction of a famed orthopedic surgeon, and should be very nearly back to normal for the 1964-65 season.

If the therapy works out as expected, Laker fans will welcome the sight of the unsurpassed offensive moves which have been the trademark of the most spectacular corner man the game has ever seen.

The best accomplishments of Baylor are commonplace knowledge to even the

casual basketball fan. Next to the devestating 7-footer, Wilt Chamberlain, the 6-5, 225-pound Baylor is the most unstoppable offensive player the game has ever seen.

His spectacular drive shots are legendary in every NBA city. Elgin holds the all-time NBA record for playoff scoring averag, having his 38.6 points per game in the 1961-62 series. He is the holder of the single-game playoff scoring mark in the league with a 61-point performance against Boston in 1962.

Baylor has been the leading rebounder of his size consistently since entering the pro game. He has led the league's forwards in assists every season. In three of his six seasons as a pro, Baylor has led the Lakers in all three of the top offensive categories--scoring, rebounding and assists. That's only been done by three other players in the history of the NBA.

As an all-round star, excelling in every category, it would be hard to find the equal of Elgin Baylor. Some men score more--some rebound more--some of the league's better guards have better assist marks. But, in every phase of the game, shooting passing, dribbling, defense--Baylor can do it all.

And with two healthy knees, the Laker Captain should be able to handle all these chores for Los Angeles once again this season.

## ELGIN BAYLOR'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '58-59 Minn. | 70 | 2855 | 1482 | 605 | .408 | 685 | 532 | .777 | 1050 | 287 | 270 | 4 | 1742 | 24.9 |
| '59-60 Minn. | 70 | 2873 | 1781 | 755 | .424 | 770 | 564 | .732 | 1150 | 243 | 234 | 2 | 2074 | 29.6 |
| '60-61 L.A. | 73 | 3135 | 2166 | 931 | .430 | 863 | 676 | .783 | 1447 | 371 | 279 | 3 | 2538 | 34.8 |
| '61-62 L.A. | 48 | 2129 | 1590 | 680 | .428 | 631 | 476 | .754 | 892 | 222 | 155 | 1 | 1836 | 38.2 |
| '62-63 L.A. | 80 | 3370 | 2273 | 1029 | .453 | 789 | 661 | .838 | 1146 | 386 | 226 | 1 | 2719 | 34.0 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 78 | 3164 | 1778 | 756 | .425 | 586 | 471 | .804 | 936 | 347 | 235 | 1 | 1983 | 25.4 |
| **PLAYOFFS** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '58-59 | 13 | 556 | 303 | 122 | .403 | 133 | 87 | .769 | 156 | 43 | 52 | 0 | 331 | 25.5 |
| '59-60 | 9 | 408 | 234 | 111 | .474 | 94 | 79 | .840 | 128 | 31 | 38 | 0 | 301 | 33.4 |
| '60-61 | 12 | 540 | 352 | 170 | .483 | 142 | 117 | .824 | 183 | 55 | 44 | 1 | 457 | 38.1 |
| '61-62 | 13 | 571 | 425 | 186 | .438 | 168 | 130 | .774 | 230 | 47 | 45 | 1 | 502 | 38.6 |
| '62-63 | 13 | 562 | 362 | 160 | .442 | 126 | 104 | .825 | 177 | 58 | 48 | 0 | 424 | 32.6 |
| '63-64 | 5 | 221 | 119 | 45 | .378 | 40 | 31 | .775 | 58 | 28 | 17 | 0 | 121 | 24.2 |

JERRY WEST | Guard | Pro Exp. 4 years

26 years, 6-3
180 lbs. | West Virginia U.

The past National Basketball Association season was the one which proved beyond any doubt that Jerry West, guard of the Los Angeles Lakers, was indeed a super-star.

West, who led the team in scoring with an average of 28.7 points per game, also was near the top in several other statistical departments, including assists, where he ranked third in the league.

Yet his greatest value was perhaps proven during a late-season stretch when the 6-2½ guard was sidelined by a broken thumb. At that time the loss of scoring punch was the obvious lack which the Lakers felt.

Yet one opposing player, a member of the Cincinnati Royals, stated that "Jerry's defense is what they miss the most." He continued, "West gives more defensive effort than another other of the big offensive stars in the entire NBA."

So, in the new season, West is anxious to play his part in a resurgance which the Lakers hope will make them a team to be considered for NBA championship honors.

After finishing sixth in the NBA in field goal percentage (48.4) and second in free-throw percentage (83.2) West hopes for another good season of putting the ball in the basket.

Additionally, he outrebounded every man in the NBA of his size, and for the third year in succession, was named to the all-NBA team, along with Elgin Baylor, the Lakers' star forward.

Although he is a relatively young 26 years old, West is already coming into

a prominence which promises that he may soon be listed by most experts as a member of the game's all-time team. His coach, Fred Schaus, considers West "one of the two greatest guards to ever play the game," along with Oscar Robertson.

Fred is gathering company and Jerry is slowly nudging the legendary Bob Cousy from his top rating.

West's scoring average, his highest finish in the league's standings, was made possible in a large degree by his 702 free throw attempts, one of the highest marks in the league.

It shows the driving tactics which West employs, and this weapon may become even more rewarding now that the National Basketball Association has opened up its game by widening the foul lanes from 12 to 16 feet.

West, who is meticulous about his conditioning, should continue to sparkle in the Laker lineup for years to come.

JERRY WEST'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | AST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '60-61 L.A. | 79 | 2797 | 1264 | 529 | .418 | 497 | 331 | .666 | 601 | 333 | 227 | 1 | 1389 | 17.6 |
| '61-62 L.A. | 75 | 3088 | 1807 | 799 | .442 | 926 | 712 | .769 | 591 | 400 | 175 | 5 | 2310 | 30.8 |
| '62-63 L.A. | 56 | 2163 | 1213 | 559 | .461 | 477 | 371 | .778 | 394 | 307 | 150 | 1 | 1489 | 26.6 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 72 | 2906 | 1529 | 740 | .484 | 702 | 584 | .832 | 443 | 403 | 200 | 2 | 2064 | 28.7 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '60-61 | 12 | 461 | 202 | 99 | .490 | 106 | 77 | .726 | 104 | 66 | 39 | 0 | 275 | 22.9 |
| '61-62 | 13 | 557 | 310 | 144 | .464 | 150 | 121 | .807 | 88 | 57 | 38 | 0 | 409 | 31.5 |
| '62-63 | 13 | 538 | 286 | 144 | .503 | 100 | 74 | .740 | 106 | 61 | 34 | 0 | 362 | 27.8 |
| '63-64 | 5 | 206 | 115 | 57 | .496 | 53 | 42 | .792 | 36 | 17 | 20 | 0 | 156 | 31.2 |

RUDY LaRUSSO | Forward | Pro Exp. 5 years

26 years, 6-8
225 lbs. | Dartmouth U.

It would be difficult to say too many complimentary things about Rudy LaRusso, the hard-nosed forward of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Again last season, LaRusso operated "in the shadow" of L.A.'s two all-pro stars, Elgin Baylor and Jerry West. Yet, time and again, when other clubs in the NBA reach out for a member of the Laker roster, it is Rudy they are dealing for.

LaRusso, a 6-8 bundle of muscle from Dartmouth, finished the past season in statistical glory. He scored in double figures and gathered in the second highest number of rebounds, behind Baylor.

Night after night, LaRusso stayed with the toughest forwards in the league. It is invariably Rudy's task to handle such stars as Bob Pettit, Tom Heinsohn, Jerry Lucas and Tom Meschery. In short, LaRusso almost alyays draws the defensive assignment on the opponent's top-scoring forward.

This task involves a lot of back-breaking hard labor, yet LaRusso approaches the assignment with gusto. That's the way he prefers to play the game.

That he does a good job is reflected in the opinion of Rudy's contemporaries in the NBA, Last year during the playoffs, Harry Gallatin, coach of the St. Louis Hawks, analyzed the Laker-Hawk playoff with the comment, "It depends upon whether or not we can get enough scoring from our other people besides Pettit. LaRusso always does an exceptionally good job on Bob."

Alex Hannum, coach of the Western Division winners, the San Francisco Warriors, calls Rudy the "unselfish type of player who thinks of the team first."

That's an accurate evaluation of LaRusso's role with the Lakers. Despite

the accolades of opposing coaches, however, Rudy's biggest boosters are his bosses.

Coach Fred Schaus, General Manager Lou Mohs and owner Bob Short are cognizant of LaRusso's value not only on the court, but off the floor as well. He has those intangibles which were perhaps best evaluated by Jim Murray, nationally syndicated columnist, who said "Rudy cares!"

Statistically, Rudy averaged 12.3 points per game last season, firing in 43% of his field goals and 75% of his free throws, had 190 assists (one of the high marks among the forwards of the league) and grabbed off 800 rebounds (for 11th place in the NBA.)

All these marks are very close to Rudy's average for his career, which began professionally when he surprised the basketball world by coming out of the Ivy League to became a starter for the then-Minneapolis Lakers.

Emphasizing his value to the team is the fact Rudy has missed only eight games in his five pro seasons.

Another facet of the LaRusso value is his public relations work on behalf of the club. It is certain that no NBA team has a finer representative for the myraid of off-season appearances in which prominent athletes are constantly involved.

Athlete, scholar, gentleman--the Rudy LaRusso story is one of which the entire Laker organization is extremely proud.

RUDY LaRUSSO'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G | MIN | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '59-60 Minn. | 71 | 2092 | 913 | 355 | .389 | 357 | 265 | .742 | 679 | 83 | 222 | 8 | 975 | 13.7 |
| '60-61 L.A. | 79 | 2593 | 992 | 416 | .419 | 409 | 323 | .790 | 781 | 135 | 181 | 8 | 1155 | 14.6 |
| '61-62 L.A. | 80 | 2754 | 1108 | 516 | .466 | 458 | 342 | .747 | 828 | 179 | 255 | 5 | 1374 | 17.1 |
| '62-63 L.A. | 74 | 2505 | 763 | 321 | .421 | 393 | 282 | .718 | 647 | 188 | 255 | 5 | 924 | 12.5 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 79 | 2736 | 776 | 337 | .434 | 397 | 298 | .751 | 800 | 190 | 268 | 5 | 972 | 12.3 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '59-60 Minn. | 9 | 321 | 132 | 56 | .424 | 35 | 27 | .771 | 70 | 22 | 34 | 1 | 139 | 15.4 |
| '60-61 | 12 | 360 | 144 | 57 | .396 | 48 | 32 | .667 | 96 | 24 | 43 | 1 | 146 | 12.2 |
| '61-62 | 13 | 461 | 156 | 57 | .365 | 91 | 69 | .758 | 118 | 22 | 51 | 3 | 183 | 14.1 |
| '62-63 | 13 | 465 | 154 | 65 | .422 | 75 | 57 | .760 | 127 | 28 | 58 | 2 | 187 | 14.4 |
| '63-64 | 5 | 189 | 33 | 13 | .394 | 22 | 19 | .864 | 30 | 11 | 23 | 2 | 45 | 9.0 |

JIM KING | Guard | Pro Exp: 1 year

23 years, 6-2, 177 lbs. | Tulsa University

When the National Basketball Association rulesmakers decided to experiment with a 16-foot lane this season, one player who figured to benefit was Jim King, sophomore guard of the Los Angeles Lakers.

For the widened lane opened up the game, and allowed the hard-driving guards to assert themselves more than ever.

And when it comes to hard-driving backcourt men, King qualifies as one of the best of the youngsters who have come into the NBA in recent seasons.

King, 6-2 guaduate of Tulsa University, was drafted by the Lakers last season after the club obtained the rights to his services in a trade with the Cincinnati Royals.

The Lakers had traded Tom Hawkins to the Royals, but one stipulation was that L.A. was to receive Cincinnati's second draft choice in the 1963 selections.

Jim came to the Lakers with great college credentials, which he piled up in the tough Missouri Valley Conference. He was a two-time All-Conference selection, and at the modest height of 6-2, was the second leading rebounder in the conference in his junior year.

After the traditional break-in period for a rookie, King became a starter for the Lakers in the latter stages of his first season. He shot at a 58% clip in the final 12 games of the year, and constantly penetrated opposing defenses with his speed and ball-handling ability.

King has large hands, and can easily palm the basketball in one hand while looking for an opening. In fact, last season he was called for a violation in an unusual situation which developed because of this ability.

While dribbling through heavy traffic in a game with the Boston Celtics, Jim

caught the ball in one hand and moved it in his palm to a point where he could dribble it without interference. Naturally, he was whistled down for a discontinued dribble, but it's something very few backcourt men could even accomplish.

King is a good jumper, being an exceptionally fine rebounder for his size. Last season he demonstrated an ability to move into the heavy traffic around the basket and come down with the ball.

His biggest night came against Cincinnati, when he played 20 minutes in a reserve role, made six of six field goal attempts, five of seven free throw tries, took four rebounds, was credited with four assists, and most importantly, led the Lakers to victory.

With an opportunity to penetrate even more openly than before, Jim King is looking forward to the upcoming National Basketball Association season.

JIM KING'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '63-64 L.A. | 60 | 762 | 198 | 84 | .424 | 101 | 66 | .653 | 113 | 110 | 99 | 0 | 234 | 3.9 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '63-64 | 4 | 51 | 10 | 4 | .400 | 4 | 4 | 1.000 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 3.0 |

LEROY ELLIS Forward Pro Exp: 2 years

24 years, 6-10, 212 lbs. St. John's Univ.

Unlike the small child who is asked to stand in a corner as a means of punishment, Los Angeles Laker basketball player LeRoy Ellis is looking forward to the task.

Ellis, who stands 6-10 and weighs 212 pounds, has played both center and forward during his two previous National Basketball Association seasons. But now plans call for the St. John's U. graduate to remain exclusively in the corner.

And Ellis, who hopes to realize his full potential while playing only one position, may now blossom out as a star performer.

Regarded as an outstanding outside shooter for a man of his size, Ellis will now be able to take full advantage of his ability to shoot while facing the basket, a trait uncommon in a 6-10 giant.

After originally learning to score while facing the hoop under the coaching of Joe Lapchick at St. John's, Ellis returned to summer classes at the university during the just-completed off-season complete with a full set of exercises and drills as devised by Laker coach Fred Schaus.

The purpose was to give LeRoy all the corner "moves" and directions of where to play in various situations. The results are expected to be visible on the court.

Schaus noted in making the conversion: "Let's not forget that one of our major concerns last year was the fact we had to give away too much height at the corner spots. The NBA is getting full of 6-9, 6-10 and 6-11 forwards."

"Consequently, with two big centers (Gene Wiley and Darrall Imhoff) on our side, we can afford to lend LeRoy to the corner where he won't have to match heft with the likes of Chamberlain, Embry and the rest."

As the Lakers first draft choice three years ago, Ellis came into the NBA specifically intended for pivot play. However, the boy is a lean, lanky specimen who is one of the fastest men of his size in the league.

All things considered, his future may be as a corner man who is able to help defense the NBA's new breed of big forwards, who can shoot from outside, and who can use his exceptional speed to fit into the club's fast-break philosophy, as set down by Schaus.

It may turn out that Ellis' stay in the corner will result in a form of punishment after all--but only for the opponents who will be assigned to him.

#

LEROY ELLIS' NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '62-63 L.A. | 80 | 1628 | 530 | 222 | .419 | 202 | 133 | .658 | 518 | 46 | 194 | 1 | 577 | 7.2 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 78 | 1459 | 473 | 200 | .423 | 170 | 112 | .659 | 498 | 41 | 192 | 3 | 512 | 6.6 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '62-63 | 13 | 302 | 53 | 28 | .509 | 33 | 27 | .818 | 85 | 13 | 35 | 0 | 81 | 6.2 |
| '63-64 | 5 | 144 | 27 | 8 | .296 | 15 | 11 | .733 | 50 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 27 | 5.4 |

GENE WILEY | Center | Pro exp: 2 years

25 years, 6-10, 230 lbs. | Wichita U.

The National Basketball Association is going to see a "new" Gene Wiley during the 1964-65 season.

For Wiley, the Los Angeles Lakers' center, has been on a body-building program which has added 25 pounds to his 6-10 frame. The program has added strength and confidence as well.

Wiley undertook the program on the theory he could become a stronger rebounder and a more consistent player for the Western Division team. Early indications seem to show results.

Teammate Rudy LaRusso made the following evaluation following a recent workout.

"Gene is stronger, but more importantly, he knows it. He was really throwing his weight around in that scrimmage."

And then with a far-away look, LaRusso continued, "Boy," wouldn't that be something--a stronger, more confident Gene Wiley? He could really take us a long way."

Wiley came into the NBA two years ago weighing about 210 pounds. But with tremendous hands and marvelous reflexes, he caused buzzing around the league with occasionally brilliant defensive and rebounding efforts.

In his rookie season, the quiet-spoken Wiley set a Sports Arena record for rebounds in one quarter--14--displacing the previous record holder, Bill Russell!

However, Wiley was not as consistent as he and the Lakers hoped in his second season. He had some good nights, and some not-so-good. Now with greater physical equipment to go about his work, Gene may be able to have the good nights on a more consistent basis.

One player who probably isn't looking forward to Gene getting any stronger is the fearsome Wilt Chamberlain of San Francisco. Wiley, in his last two years, has had some exceptionally good games against the Warriors' "scoring machine."

He has a knack of timing himself on Chamberlain's attempts to stuff the ball, and has managed many times to block this almost impossible-to-stop shot.

Wiley is also an accomplished artist, and another project he undertook this summer was to paint an in-detail action portrait of himself stopping one of Chamberlain's attempts. The life-size result currently hangs in the Laker office as a reminder of Wiley's defensive potential.

From the day he was drafted as the shot-blocking star of the University of Wichita's basketball team, Gene Wiley has taken great strides in the NBA. He hopes the latest will be the one which will propel him to the status of a star.

#

GENE WILEY'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '62-63 L.A. | 75 | 1498 | 236 | 109 | .462 | 68 | 23 | .338 | 504 | 40 | 180 | 4 | 241 | 3.2 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 77 | 1494 | 267 | 144 | .539 | 75 | 45 | .600 | 504 | 44 | 225 | 4 | 333 | 4.3 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '62-63 | 9 | 278 | 35 | 14 | .400 | 15 | 2 | .133 | 97 | 11 | 29 | 1 | 30 | 3.3 |
| '63-64 | 5 | 48 | 8 | 5 | .625 | 3 | 3 | 1.000 | 16 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 13 | 2.5 |

DICK BARNETT Guard Pro Ex.: 5 years

28 yrs., 6-4, 195 lbs. Tennessee State

Dick Barnett is a valuable basketball player who can do a lot of things. But after you've listed his size, 6-4, his weight, 195 pounds, his strength, his occasionally brilliant defensive play--you still come back to one basic talent--Dick Barnett is one of the great shooters of basketball history.

And, let's face it--that's the name of the game. Put the ball in the hoop.

For the past two seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers, who acquired Barnett from the Syracuse Nationals, Dick has established himself as a valuable cog in the club's armament.

Much of the time over the past two seasons, Barnett has functioned as the "sixth man," coming in on many occasions to hit some key baskets and fire the club to an important scoring surge.

Barnett became so adept at this type of action that two years ago his 18.0 scoring average was the highest mark in the entire league among non-starters.

Last season, Dick raised his scoring a trifle, averaging 18.4 points, while shooting at a 45.2% from the field. He was the NBA's 12th leading pointmaker.

The backcourt star first came to national notice several years ago at his alma mater, Tennessee State, when he was voted Most Valuable Player at the NAIA Tournament two successive years.

He was a first round draft choice of the Syracuse Nats, in the 1960-61 season, and played with that club two years. The Lakers purchased Dick's contract two seasons ago for the largest cash price paid for a player up to that time in the NBA.

In addition to his contributions on the court, Dick has assumed the mantle of

the departed Rod Hundley as the team's leading "jester." Funny lines and humorous remarks seem to fall from his lips naturally and constantly, and his fine sense of humor makes him the object of a good deal of kidding among his teammates.

When the team tightens up for any of various reasons, Dick has the knack of loosening them up quickly with one of his hilarious remarks or antics.

Therefore, Dick Barnett has proven unique among professional athletes. Whether its 18 points per game or the ability to make his teammates perform at their peak efficiency, the backcourt star has proven a valuable performer.

#

DICK BARNETT'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '59-60 Syr. | 57 | 1135 | 701 | 289 | .412 | 180 | 128 | .711 | 225 | 160 | 97 | 0 | 706 | 12.4 |
| '60-61 Syr. | 78 | 1970 | 1194 | 540 | .452 | 337 | 240 | .712 | 283 | 218 | 169 | 0 | 1320 | 16.9 |
| '62-63 L.A. | 80 | 2522 | 1162 | 547 | .471 | 421 | 343 | .815 | 242 | 224 | 189 | 3 | 1437 | 18.0 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 78 | 2620 | 1197 | 541 | .452 | 454 | 351 | .773 | 250 | 238 | 233 | 3 | 1433 | 18.4 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '59-60 Syr. | 3 | 64 | 38 | 12 | .316 | 7 | 6 | .857 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 30 | 10.0 |
| '60-61 Syr. | 8 | 232 | 112 | 49 | .437 | 36 | 26 | .722 | 36 | 12 | 25 | 0 | 124 | 15.5 |
| '62-63 | 13 | 370 | 151 | 71 | .470 | 97 | 77 | .794 | 38 | 21 | 35 | 0 | 219 | 16.8 |
| '63-64 | 5 | 154 | 52 | 21 | .404 | 32 | 27 | .844 | 8 | 17 | 16 | 0 | 69 | 13.8 |

DON NELSON | Forward | Pro Exp. 2 yrs.

24 yrs. 6-6, 210 lbs. | U. of Iowa

A reserve 6-6 forward with a blond crew cut and the facial features of a teenager was the only member of the Los Angeles Lakers to play in each of the 80 games last season.

Don Nelson, a product of Iowa U., who originally came into the National Basketball Association as a member of the Chicago Zephyrs (now Baltimore Bullets) won the Lakers' durability honor over the bigger name stars such as Elgin Baylor, Jerry West and Rudy LaRusso.

Nelson averaged a modest 5 points per game, but made 42% of his field goal attempts, shot nearly 75% from the free throw line, and grabbed off 328 rebounds in 1406 minutes of play.

Don is the kind of ballplayer who pleases a coach tremendously. He aims constantly to improve his game, and as the saying goes, "he comes to play."

Handicapped by being a "midget size" corner man, Don parlayed his talents to their fullest potential. It was his slashing, do-or-die effort that particularly endeared him to Laker fans.

Nelson is a willing listener too, as his future plans dictate. He will continue on toward his Masters Degree and will go into the field of coaching and education.

He knows he can not get finer basketball teaching than he can by taking in the words of Laker coach Fred Schaus.

Nelson was acquired by the Lakers when the Chicagofranchise was moved, and the player indicated he might not be able to work out a move to Baltimore. However, he cleared the way when owner Bob Short made him a Laker.

As a collegian, Don is best remembered in Los Angeles for his performance in the L.A. Basketball Classic, in which he made the all-tourney team and barely lost MVP honors to USC star John Rudometkin. Iowa won that event.

The Hawkeyes then were hit by the ineligibility of four starters, but with only Nelson remaining as a nucleus, the club still managed to remain in the thick of the Big Ten race all season.

The Lakers hope for more scoring punch from Don off the bench this season, and his early performance in intra-squad competition was pleasing in that he showed an ability to put the ball through the basket with more regularity.

#

DON NELSON'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOT. PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| '62-63 Chi. | 63 | 1072 | 293 | 129 | .440 | 221 | 161 | .729 | 279 | 70 | 138 | 3 | 419 | 6.7 |
| '63-64 L.A. | 80 | 1406 | 323 | 135 | .418 | 201 | 149 | .741 | 323 | 76 | 181 | 1 | 419 | 5.2 |
| | | | | | | PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | |
| '63-64 | 5 | 56 | 13 | 7 | .539 | 3 | 3 | 1.000 | 13 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 17 | 3.4 |

DARRALL IMHOFF Center Pro Exp. 4 years

26 yrs., 6-10, 220 lbs. U. of California

"How many guys in this league are bigger an stronger than Darrall Imhoff?"

The question was propounded by Lakers' General Manager Lou Mohs, and the answer, in Mohs' opinion, is "not more than a handful."

"And I'll tell you something else," continued Mohs, "I doubt seriously if there's a more intelligent player around, and that is no reflection on the rest."

Consequently, when the four-year veteran pivot man came on the market during the off-season, the Lakers snapped up Imhoff's contract from the Detroit Pistons.

The pleasure at the realignment of Imhoff with the NBA team in his home state was mutual with both the club and player.

Imhoff, an All-American at the University of California, was the third pick in the entire NBA in the draft of 1960, being chosen by the New York Knicks as their first choice.

Imhoff was chosen after Oscar Robertson and Jerry West were tabbed, and he was a teammate of theirs on the U.S. Olympic team that year.

The 6-10 pivot man was a key factor in the 1959 NCAA championship won by California, when the Golden Bears defeated Fred Schaus' West Virginia team by one point. Schaus has been an admirer of Imhoff's talents ever since.

Says the coach: "Don't count Darrall out. He has good hands, and can jump. He has excellent defensive timing, and he's a smart lad."

The general feeling among the Laker brass is that Darrall has been handicapped in his NBA career by being forced to play a style of basketball with New York and Detroit which stressed extensive scoring.

His talents are more on the defensive side, and it so happens the Lakers are a team which stresses defensive play from its centers, as the club is fortunate enough to have one of basketball's greatest one-two scoring punches in Elgin Baylor and Jerry West.

Imhoff is a center with a limited background in basketball, as compared to the average NBA performer. Unlike most of his colleagues, who started dribbling when they were in knee pants, Imhoff didn't even take up the game until he was a junior at Alhambra (Calif.) High School.

Consequently, even when he came into the pro ranks, Imhoff was still learning the basics of the game.

Imhoff is enthusiastic about joining the Lakers and playing in his original home town. If he can transfer some of that enthusiasm into some steady pivot play, the Lakers will feel they made an investment well worthwhile.

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DARRALL IMHOFF'S NBA STATISTICAL RECORD

| YEAR & TEAM | G. | MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS | ASST. | PF | D | TOTAL PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60-61 New York | 62 | 994 | 310 | 122 | .393 | 96 | 48 | .510 | 296 | 51 | 143 | 2 | 293 | 4.7 |
| '61-62 New York | 76 | 1501 | 482 | 186 | .386 | 139 | 80 | .575 | 470 | 82 | 230 | 10 | 452 | 5.9 |
| '62-63 Detroit | 45 | 458 | 153 | 48 | .314 | 50 | 24 | .480 | 155 | 28 | 66 | 1 | 120 | 2.7 |
| '63-64 Detroit | 58 | 871 | 251 | 104 | .414 | 113 | 69 | .611 | 283 | 56 | 167 | 5 | 277 | 4.8 |
| PLAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| '62-63 Detroit | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |

COTTON NASH | Forward | Rookie

22 Yrs., 6-6½, 215 lbs. | Kentucky

The Los Angeles Lakers' draft philosophy this season might be summed up in a rather simple manner.

After the usual amount of exhaustive research which goes into any draft, the Lakers selected the Most Valuable Player of the last collegiate season, UCLA guard Walt Hazzard, and the runnerup, Kentucky's Cotton Nash.

The latter, a 6-6½, 215-pounder, looms as a candidate for top honors as he will be used primarily as a corner man, and possibly somewhat in the backcourt too.

Nash, all-time leading scorer at Kentucky, where such standouts as Ralph Beard, Alex Groza, Cliff Hagan and Frank Ramsey also performed under the watchful eye of Baron Adolph Rupp, has already proven himself a versatile player.

He played forward, center and guard in college, and averaged 23.4, 20.6 and 24.0 points per game in three seasons. Nash also took 30 rebounds in a game against Mississippi last year, and led the Wildcats in rebounding.

But despite these statistics, it was another phase of the game--the one which determines a complete player--which Schaus noted when the Lakers acquired Nash.

"Beyond his scoring and rebounding, Nash could become a defensive standout. We know that any boy turned out by Adolph Rupp has to be sound defensively," he said.

The nation's basketball writers voted Nash as runnerup to Hazzard for Player of the Year honors despite the fact Kentucky didn't achieve the team honors which UCLA did. That's a tribute to the boy's ability too.

Nash was given a modest bonus by the Los Angeles Angels to play baseball, and spent his first season in the California League at San Jose.

Nash was being considered as a likely prospect to be the Lakers' swing-man this season, playing equally in the frontcourt and backcourt. However, he showed up bigger physically than the Lakers had hoped for, and displayed such a good shooting eye in early drills it was decided to leave him primarily at the corner position for the present.

Nash was Kentucky-oriented all the way, attending the famed basketball-mad institution after prepping at Jeffersonville, Ind. under Cliff Barker, a former Kentucky All-American who influenced him to further his training under Rupp.

The blond, graceful-moving athlete demonstrated his desire to make good in the rugged National Basketball Association by telling Laker General Manager Lou Mohs at the time of his signing:

"You may have reservations as to whether or not I can make the grade--but I din't have any."

It seems likely that Nash has the ability to match his confidance.

JERRY GROTE | Guard | Rookie

23 yrs., 6-4, 216 lbs. | Loyola U.

Two seasons ago the St. Louis Hawks drafted Jerry Grote, then an overweight playmaker who had graduated from Loyola University in Los Angeles.

Grote didn't make the grade, and those who had seen him as a 242-pound backcourt man realized it was lack of speed which proved the chief deficiency of the 6-4 player.

However, Grote wasn't far away from NBA standards, as he demonstrated by starring for Long Beach in the ill-fated American Basketball League. Then he went on a diet.

This summer, while coaching and playing for Opinion Research in an AAU league in the Los Angeles area, Grote was spotted by Lou Mohs, Laker General Manager.

"I noticed this fella throwing accurate passes, and keeping his team running. But at first I didn't even know it was Grote--that's how much weight he had lost," Mohs noted.

Grote was invoted to the Lakers' Rookie Camp in September, and made the squad. His weight--a streamlined 216 pounds--was a factor as he moved himself freely in the swift competition.

Grote's love for basketball led to his resurgance.

"I started playing this summer, and I sort of got carried away with the thought of playing again. It's great to be able to play this game, and to be a part of a team like the Lakers," he says.

As a result, the Lakers have a "sleeper" on their 1964-65 roster, and a passer who may rate with the NBA's finest before very long.

Coach Fred Schaus, who also was well aware of Grote's passing ability too, was

surprised at the rookie's shooting ability.

"He has good range on his shooting. He can hit from straight out, and he can move toward the corners without losing any of his efficiency," the coach analyzed.

Two seasons ago, Grote completed a collegiate career which was filled with achievements despite his excess poundage.

He was named Player of the Conference in the West Coast Athletic Conference in his sophomore year, and followed with two more productive campaigns. The WCAC is the circuit which has turned out such NBA stars as Bill Russell, Kenny Sears, Mike Farmer and Tom Meschery.

Grote prepared for a career in coaching, and was an instructor at St. Anthony's High School in Long Beach when he made the Laker squad.

The Lakers feel they have aided their passing, their shooting and their backcourt defense with the acquisition.

# # #

WALT HAZZARD | Guard<br>22 Years, 6-2, 175 lbs. | Pro Exp.: Rookie<br>UCLA

The nation's most outstanding collegiate player as well as a Southern California favorite became the Lakers' number one draft choice at last winter's NBA meetings.

When the Lakers selected 6-2, 175-pound Walt Hazzard of UCLA, they not only made a popular move with the fans, but tabbed the player who had won the U.S. Basketball Writers' Association award as America's outstanding collegiate cager.

At this writing, Hazzard was starring for the United States Olympic Basketball team in Tokyo.

Hazzard, a southland favorite ever since he joined Johnny Wooden's UCLA squad five years ago, led the Bruins to the national title last season by spearheading a 30-0 season with his pinpoint passing and timely scoring.

Best known as a feeder, Hazzard broke Willie Naulls' career scoring records in college. His ability to find the open man is his greatest asset, but another facet of his game is the knack of putting the ball through the hoop when the pressure is on.

Hazzard is a native of Philadelphia, and came to UCLA after completing a brilliant prep career at Overbrook High, a school which previously had produced San Francisco Warrior stars Wilt Chamberlain and Wayne Hightower as well as a number of other prominent athletes.

In his sophomore year, UCLA finished fourth in the NCAA Tournament after winning the Big Five Conference title. The Bruins earned the conference crown the following year, then put together their all-winning campaign a year ago.

Hazzard, regarded by many as a player in the mold of a Bob Cousy, has improved his defensive play considerably, but will still have to work on this phase of his

game--an area which is difficult for many an NBA newcomer.

Hazzard and Cotton Nash, the Lakers' second draft pick, both emerged as scoring champions at their respective schools. Both Nash's alma mater of Kentucky, and Hazzard's school, UCLA, have turned out numerous basketball greats through the years.

Walt was married within the past year to the former Pat Shepherd, who was a cheerleader at UCLA. The couple is expecting its first child shortly.

LOS ANGELES SPORTS ARENA RECORDS -(Beginning f 1964-65 Season)

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER RECORDS

FULL GAME

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 72 | Wilt Chamberlain | San Francisco | 11-3-62 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 49 | Wilt Chamberlain | San Francisco | 1-26-64 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 29 | Wilt Chamberlain | San Francisco | 11-3-62 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 26 | Wilt Chamberlain | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 20 | Elgin Baylor | vs. St. Louis | 12-21-62 |
| Most Rebounds | 30 | Elgin Baylor | vs. Cincinnati | 1-14-61 |
| Most Assists | 16 | Jerry West | vs. Detroit | 10-27-62 |

ONE-HALF

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 39 | Wilt Chamberlain | San Francisco | 11-3-62 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 31 | Wilt Chamberlain | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 16 | Wilt Chamberlain | San Francisco | 11-3-62 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 17 | Wilt Chamberlain | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 12 | Elgin Baylor | vs. Syracuse | 1-24-61 |
| Most Rebounds | 20 | Bill Russell | Boston | 10-15-60 |
| Most Assists | 10 | Rod Hundley | vs. Detroit | 2-25-62 |
| | 10 | Tom Gola | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |

ONE-QUARTER

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 24 | Jerry West | vs. New York | 1-17-62 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 17 | Wilt Chamberlain | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 10 | Wilt Chamberlain | San Francisco | 11-3-62 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 13 | Wilt Chamberlain | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 8 | Elgin Baylor | vs. Syracuse | 1-24-61 |
| | 8 | Jerry West | vs. New York | 1-17-62 |
| Most Rebounds | 14 | Gene Wiley | vs. New York | 11-5-62 |
| Most Assists | 10 | Rod Hundley | vs. Detroit | 2-25-62 |

ONE TEAM RECORDS

FULL GAME

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 138 | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 132 | Detroit | 10-27-61 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 60 | Lakers vs. Phila. | 11-28-60 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 55 | Lakers vs. Detroit | 3-31-62 |
| | 55 | Philadelphia | 12-2-61 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 42 | Lakers vs. Phila. | 1-3-62 |
| Most Rebounds | 101 | Lakers vs. Boston | 2-18-62 |
| Most Assists | 43 | Lakers vs. Detroit | 1-29-61 |
| Most Personal Fouls | 37 | Detroit | 3-31-62 |

ONE HALF

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 83 | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 69 | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 34 | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 29 | New York | 10-25-60 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 26 | New York | 10-25-60 |
| Most Rebounds | 51 | Lakers vs. Boston | 2-18-62 |
| Most Assists | 24 | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |

ONE QUARTER

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 51 | Lakers vs. Detroit | 3-31-62 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 39 | Boston | 12-5-60 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 17 | Lakers vs. Detroit | 1-29-61 |
| | 17 | Lakers vs. Phila. | 11-28-60 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 20 | New York | 1-10-61 |
| | 20 | Lakers vs. New York | 1-11-61 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 16 | Lakers vs. New York | 10-25-60 |
| Most Rebounds | 31 | Lakers vs. St. Louis | 2-21-60 |
| Most Assists | 14 | Philadelphia | 12-1-61 |

TWO TEAM RECORDS

FULL GAME

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 261 | Lakers 135, Detroit 126 | 10-28-61 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 236 | Detroit 132, Lakers 104 | 2-21-60 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 108 | Lakers 56, Detroit 52 | 10-27-62 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 94 | NewYork 51, Lakers 43 | 1-10-61 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 70 | Lakers 36, New York 34 | 10-25-60 |
| Most Rebounds | 172 | Lakers 101, Boston 71 | 2-18-62 |
| Most Assists | 75 | St. Louis 41, Lakers 34 | 11-8-61 |
| | 75 | Philadelphia 43, Lakers 32 | 12-1-61 |
| Most Personal Fouls | 68 | Detroit 35, Lakers 33 | 10-27-61 |
| Most Disqualifications | 5 | Boston 3, Lakers 2 | 1-5-63 |

ONE HALF

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 139 | Lakers 75, Detroit 64 | 10-28-61 |
| | 139 | Lakers 73, Detroit 66 | 11-8-61 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 119 | Lakers 68, Detroit 51 | 10-28-61 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 55 | Lakers 33, Philadelphia 22 | 11-28-60 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 57 | New York 29, Lakers 28 | 10-25-60 |
| Most Free Throws Made | 45 | New York 26, Lakers 19 | 10-25-60 |
| Most Rebounds | 87 | Lakers 51, Boston 36 | 2-18-62 |
| Most Assists | 38 | Lakers 20, St. Louis 18 | 11-8-61 |

ONE QUARTER

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 81 | Lakers 51, Detroit 30 | 3-31-62 |
| Most Field Goals Att. | 60 | Lakers 33, Detroit 27 | 1-29-61 |
| Most Field Goals Made | 31 | Philadelphia 16, Lakers 15 | 11-28-60 |
| Most Free Throws Att. | 31 | New York 20, Lakers 11 | 1-10-61 |
| | 31 | Lakers 20, New York 11 | 1-11-61 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Free Throws Made | 25 | New York 13, Lakers 12 | 10-25-60 |
| Most Rebounds | 44 | Lakers 26, Boston 18 | 2-18-60 |
| Most Assists | 20 | Lakers 11, St. Louis 9 | 12-12-60 |

## ALL-TIME LAKER INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

### SEASON

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 2719 | Elgin Baylor | 1962-63 |
| Most Field Goals | 1029 | Elgin Baylor | 1962-63 |
| Most Free Throws | 712 | Jerry West | 1961-62 |
| Most Rebounds | 1447 | Elgin Baylor | 1960-61 |
| Most Assists | 445 | Slater Martin | 1954-55 |
| Most Disqualifications | 20 | Vern Mikkelsen | 1957-58 |
| Most Personal Fouls | 319 | Vern Mikkelsen | 1954-55, 1955-56 |
| Highest FG Percentage | .484 | Jerry West | 1963-64 |
| Highest FT Percentage | .856 | Dick Schnittker | 1955-56 |
| Highest Scoring Avg. | 38.2 | Elgin Baylor | 1961-62 |

### ONE GAME

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Most Points | 71 | Elgin Baylor -at New York | 11-15-60 |
| Most Field Goals | 28 | Elgin Baylor -at New York | 11-15-60 |
| Most Free Throws | 22 | Larry Foust-Mpls. vs. St. Louis | 11-30-57 |
| Most Rebounds | 36 | George Mikan -Mpls. vs. Phila. | 3-4-52 |
| Most Assists | 16 | Jerry West-vs. Detroit | 10-27-62 |

## ALL-TIME LAKER TEAM RECORDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Longest Win Streak | 14 games | | 1950 |
| Scoring High | 151 | at Philadelphia (3ot's) | 12-8-61 |
| | 141 | at Cincinnati | 12-25-61 |
| Most Points Against | 173 | at Boston | 2-27-59 |
| Most Total Points, 1 game | 312 | at Boston | 2-27-59 |
| Biggest Victory Margin | 58 | vs. St. Louis (133-75) | 1956 |
| Most Fouls, 1 game | 47 | vs. Syracuse | 1952 |
| | 47 | vs. Indianapolis | 1952 |
| Least Fouls, 1 game | 3 | vs. Oshkosh | 1947 |
| Most Field Goals, 1 game | 57 | vs. Philadelphia (3 ot's) | 12-8-61 |
| | 57 | vs. St. Louis | 12-19-62 |
| Most Free Throws, 1 game | 51 | vs. St. Louis | 1957 |
| | 51 | vs. Baltimore | 1949 |
| Best Shooting Pct., 1 game | 58% | vs. Baltimore | 3-9-64 |

LOS ANGELES LAKERS

1963-64 SEASON STATISTICS

| NAME & GAMES | AVG. MIN. | FGA | FGM | PCT. | FTA | FTM | PCT. | RBS. | ASST. | DIS. | PTS. | AVG. | HG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JERRY WEST 72 | 40.4 | 1529 | 740 | .484 | 702 | 584 | .832 | 443 | 403 | 2 | 2064 | 28.7 | 47 |
| ELGIN BAYLOR 78 | 40.5 | 1778 | 756 | .425 | 586 | 471 | .804 | 936 | 347 | 1 | 1983 | 25.4 | 37 |
| DICK BARNETT 78 | 33.6 | 1197 | 541 | .452 | 454 | 351 | .773 | 250 | 238 | 3 | 1433 | 18.4 | 38 |
| RUDY LA RUSSO 79 | 34.6 | 776 | 337 | .434 | 397 | 298 | .751 | 800 | 190 | 5 | 972 | 12.3 | 27 |
| LeROY ELLIS 78 | 18.7 | 473 | 200 | .423 | 170 | 112 | .659 | 498 | 41 | 3 | 512 | 6.6 | 18 |
| DON NELSON 80 | 17.6 | 323 | 135 | .418 | 201 | 149 | .741 | 323 | 76 | 1 | 419 | 5.2 | 16 |
| FRANK SELVY 73 | 17.6 | 423 | 160 | .378 | 122 | 78 | .639 | 149 | 149 | 1 | 398 | 5.5 | 17 |
| JIM KREBS 68 | 14.3 | 357 | 134 | .375 | 85 | 65 | .765 | 283 | 46 | 6 | 333 | 4.9 | 24 |
| GENE WILEY 77 | 19.4 | 267 | 144 | .539 | 75 | 45 | .600 | 504 | 44 | 4 | 333 | 4.3 | 16 |
| JIM KING 60 | 12.7 | 198 | 84 | .424 | 101 | 66 | .653 | 113 | 110 | 0 | 234 | 3.9 | 17 |
| HUB REED 46 | 8.4 | 91 | 33 | .363 | 15 | 10 | .667 | 107 | 23 | 0 | 76 | 1.7 | 15 |

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

### FINAL SEASON STATISTICS

### 1963-64 SEASON

| EASTERN DIV. | Bos. | Cin. | Phil. | NY | SF | St. L. | LA | Balt. | Det. | Won | Lost | Pct. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | - | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 59 | 21 | .738 |
| Cincinnati | 7 | - | 9 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 55 | 25 | .688 |
| Philadelphia | 2 | 3 | - | 8 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 34 | 46 | .425 |
| New York | 2 | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 58 | .275 |
| WESTERN DIV. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | - | 6 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 48 | 32 | .600 |
| St. Louis | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | - | 7 | 7 | 10 | 46 | 34 | .575 |
| LOS ANGELES | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | - | 7 | 7 | 42 | 38 | .525 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 3 | - | 7 | 31 | 49 | .388 |
| Detroit | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | - | 23 | 57 | .288 |

### TEAM STATISTICS

| | Games | Field Goals Att. | Made | Pct. | Free Throws Att. | Made | Pct. | Re-bound | Assts | Scoring Avg. For. | Agnst. | Diff |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bos. | 80 | 8770 | 3619 | .413 | 2489 | 1804 | .725 | 5736 | 1760 | 113.0 | 105.1 | 7.9 |
| S.F. | 80 | 7781 | 3407 | .438 | 2821 | 1800 | .638 | 5199 | 1899 | 107.7 | 102.6 | 5.1 |
| Cincinnati | 80 | 7772 | 3516 | .452 | 2828 | 2146 | .759 | 5401 | 1916 | 114.7 | 109.7 | 5.6 |
| St. Louis | 80 | 7776 | 3341 | .430 | 2795 | 2115 | .757 | 4959 | 1901 | 110.0 | 108.4 | 1.6 |
| Los Angeles | 80 | 7438 | 3272 | .440 | 2910 | 2230 | .766 | 5025 | 1676 | 109.7 | 108.7 | 1.0 |
| Baltimore | 80 | 7862 | 3456 | .440 | 2958 | 2036 | .688 | 4762 | 1423 | 111.9 | 113.6 | -1.7 |
| Phila. | 80 | 8116 | 3394 | .418 | 2851 | 2184 | .766 | 5132 | 1543 | 112.2 | 116.5 | -4.3 |
| New York | 80 | 7816 | 3512 | .449 | 2852 | 1952 | .684 | 4639 | 1565 | 112.2 | 119.0 | -6.8 |
| Detroit | 80 | 7943 | 3346 | .421 | 2685 | 1928 | .718 | 5115 | 1633 | 107.8 | 115.5 | -7.7 |

FINAL SEASON STATISTICS (Cont.)

1963-64 SEASON

INDIVIDUAL SCORING LEADERS

| | G | FGM | FTM | PTS. | AVG. | | G | FGM | FTM | PTS. | AVG. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chamberlain, SF | 80 | 1204 | 540 | 2948 | 36.9 | S. Jones, Bos. | 76 | 612 | 249 | 1473 | 19.4 |
| Robertson, Cin | 79 | 840 | 800 | 2480 | 31.4 | BARNETT, LA | 78 | 541 | 351 | 1433 | 18.4 |
| Pettit, St. L. | 80 | 791 | 608 | 2190 | 27.4 | Hagan, S.L. | 77 | 572 | 269 | 1413 | 18.4 |
| Bellamy, Balt. | 80 | 811 | 537 | 2159 | 27.0 | Scott, Det. | 80 | 539 | 328 | 1406 | 17.6 |
| WEST, LA | 72 | 740 | 584 | 2064 | 28.7 | Lucas, Cin. | 79 | 545 | 310 | 1400 | 17.7 |
| BAYLOR, LA | 78 | 756 | 471 | 1983 | 25.4 | Embry, Cin. | 80 | 556 | 271 | 1383 | 17.3 |
| Greer, Phila. | 80 | 715 | 435 | 1865 | 23.3 | Johnson, Balt. | 78 | 571 | 210 | 1352 | 17.3 |
| Howell, Det. | 77 | 598 | 470 | 1666 | 21.6 | Chappell, N.Y. | 79 | 531 | 288 | 1350 | 17.1 |
| Dischinger, Balt. | 80 | 604 | 454 | 1662 | 20.8 | Kerr, Phil. | 80 | 536 | 268 | 1340 | 16.8 |
| Havlicek, Bos. | 80 | 640 | 315 | 1595 | 19.9 | Walker, Phil. | 76 | 492 | 330 | 1314 | 17.3 |

FIELD GOAL PCT. LEADERS
(Min. 210 or more)

| | FGA | FGM | PCT. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lucas, Cin. | 1033 | 545 | .528 |
| Chamberlain, SF | 2298 | 1204 | .524 |
| Bellamy, Balt. | 1582 | 811 | .513 |
| Dischinger, Bal. | 1217 | 604 | .496 |
| McGill, N.Y. | 936 | 456 | .487 |

FREE THROW PCT. LEADERS
(Min. 210 or more)

| | FTA | FTM | PCT. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Robertson, Cin | 938 | 800 | .853 |
| WEST, L.A. | 702 | 584 | .832 |
| Greer, Phil. | 525 | 435 | .829 |
| Heinsohn, Bos. | 342 | 283 | .827 |
| Guerin, St. L. | 424 | 347 | .818 |

LEADERS IN REBOUNDS

| | G. | No. | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Russell, Bos. | 78 | 1930 | 24.7 |
| Chamberlain, SF | 80 | 1687 | 21.1 |
| Lucas, Cin | 79 | 1375 | 17.4 |
| Bellamy, Balt. | 80 | 1361 | 17.0 |
| Pettit, St. L. | 80 | 1224 | 15.3 |

LEADERS IN ASSISTS

| | G | No. | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Robertson, Cin. | 79 | 868 | 11.0 |
| Rodgers, SF | 79 | 556 | 7.0 |
| L.C. Jones, Bos. | 80 | 407 | 5.1 |
| WEST, LA | 72 | 403 | 5.6 |
| Chamberlain, SF | 80 | 403 | 5.0 |

Most Points Scored in one Game--Chamberlain, 59 (3 times)
(vs. L.A. 12/6/63, vs. Phila. 1/28/64, vs. Detroit 2/11/64)

Most Free Throws in One Game- B. Pettit, St. L. 18 (vs. Los Angeles 10/19/63)
J. WEST, L.A. 18(vs. N.Y. 10/22/63)
WEST 18(vs. Det. 1/22/64)

Most Rebounds in One Game--Lucas 40 (at Philadelphia 2/29/64)

Most Assists in One Game--Robertson 21 (vs. New York 2/14/64)

Most Personal Fouls--W. Embry, Cin. 325

Most Games Disqualified--G. Johnson, Balt. 11, Z. Beaty, St. Louis 11.

THE SAN FRANCISCO WARRIORS...

By Coach Alex Hannum

When I came to San Francisco at the start of the 1963-64 season, I knew that the Warriors were a good team because I had been coaching against them for many years.

We had the greatest scoring machine in basketball history in Wilt Chamberlain, and as it turned out we had the biggest front line in the league with Chamberlain at 7-1, Nate Thurmond at 6-11 and Wayne Hightower at 6-9.

Even with this potential, the Warriors had been unable to win the championship with Wilt on the team, and the 1962-63 season can only be termed a disaster year as far as the Warriors were concerned.

I felt that if we could be .500 at the mid-point in the season we would have a good chance at winning the championship. The first half of the season would have to be a building process in that Thurmond would have to play the forward position for the first time in his life. Wilt was going to have to change his style to fit in with the abilities of the other players. As the season progressed we came along just as I hoped we would. Wilt's point total dropped from 45 or 50 points a game to about 35, but he finished in the top five in assists--the first time any center had ever accomplished this.

Going into the playoffs we were bothered by injuries but were able to hold St. Louis off to capture the Western Division title and the right to meet Boston for the World's Championship. With Tom Meschery, Guy Rodgers, Gary Phillips, Al Attles and Wilt all hampered by injuries, we lost to Boston in five games losing the last two in the closing seconds.

We knew that we were weak at outside shooting so that when the 1964 draft came around we set our goal at getting at least one top-flight outside shooter. We were lucky because we came away thinking that we got two and now as the season is

about to start the surprise so far has been the outside shooting from a third.

Our number one pick was Barry Kramer. As a junior from New York University he was everybody's All-American, but was injured during his senior year and didn't perform up to his previous potential. So far this year he has shown some of his junior year form and has been improving with each workout.

Bud Koper from Oklahoma City University was our second choice. He's a 6-6 guard who is one of the most amazing shooters I have ever seen. His first day of practice he hit 30 in a row from the outside where he hit 50% during his college career. So far this year he has been hampered by a leg injury that has slowed him down, but we expect him to be in top condition by the start of the season.

The biggest surprise, however, has been McCoy McLemore. Our number three draft pick, McCoy has been hitting for about 15 points a game very consistently so far, and will be seeing a lot of action as the season progresses.

This year I expect a great battle just to get into the playoffs. All the teams in the league have helped themselves and no one team appears to have a dominate power. The 1964-65 season will be a hard-fought, interesting campaign.

# # #

THE ST. LOUIS HAWKS...

By Coach Harry Gallatin

The Western Division race this season should be the most exciting in the history of the National Basketball Association and the St. Louis Hawks expect to be an important part of it. Barring any injuries to key personnel, we should be as good as any other of the three other clubs I rate as contenders in the West--Baltimore, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

This will be the third year of play as a unit for nine of our players and this makes for more team basketball. Additionally, we will discard in part our pattern style of attack and become more of a running club which I feel will help considerably especially against clubs like Boston and San Francisco.

We may have a back-up problem at center where third-year man Zelmo Beaty is our lone pivotman. Beaty has come along tremendously and should have a great year. Last year, he missed 21 games in December and played below .500 ball during that period and we lost the title to San Francisco on the last day of the season.

I plan to try Mike Farmer, a good defensive player, back of Beaty in the hole and use rookie Paul Silas there against certain clubs like Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New York and Cincinnati. He can rebound and he's played the hole in college although he is still only 6-7.

Bob Pettit looks like he is ready for his best season, and Bill Bridges, who will start at the other forward, is ready to come into his own. Cliff Hagan still is a tremendous spurt shooter and should have another fine year. Rookie John Tresvant, who can really hit the boards, will fit in somewhere.

Our backline is as good as any in the league from a depth standpoint. Richie Guerin, John Barnhill, Len Wilkens and Chico Vaughn are good tough defensive players and all can score. When Jeff Mullins returns from the Olympic games he'll give us added scoring punch with good speed once he gets adjusted.

From a personnel standpoint, this must be the best Hawks club in the team's history. However, every other club is stronger and the league is improved tremendously over the past five years.

We can do it if we get good rebounds to counteract the Warriors' great height, and if none of our top line players, especially Beaty, is hurt.

# # #

THE BALTIMORE BULLETS...

By Coach Buddy Jeannette

As I start my first season as the Baltimore Bullets' coach, I feel that we will be a greatly improved team and should be in the thick of the battle for the Western Division championship.

I feel that the summer trade with Detroit by which we acquired Don Ohl, Bailey Howell, Bob Ferry, Les Hunter and Wally Jones for Terry Dischinger, Rod Thorn, and Don Kojis will be one of two major factors in our club's improvement.

The other factor will be the maturity, age and experience gained last season by both Walt Bellamy and Gus Johnson. I believe both Bellamy and Johnson should be smarter and better players.

In Bellamy, Johnson and Howell, I believe we have one of the finest front lines pro basketball has seen in many years. All three are excellent rebounders, shooters and defensive men.

The acquisition of Ohl to play one guard slot solved many of our problems. Don is one of the finest outside shooters in the game, and an excellent defensive guard. Opponents will no longer be able to sag on Bellamy because Ohl has the ability to beat a team with his outside shooting. He will help big Walt greatly and loosen up the defense.

As of now, the assignment of playing the regular guard spot opposite Ohl is up for grabs between three men, returning veteran Si Green and Kevin Loughery and rookie Jones.

Green, who has been in the league for seven years gives me experience and savvy in the backcourt. Loughery is a fine offensive guard. Jones, only 6-1 but with tremendous speed and passing ability had a fine training season and has come along to be in the middle of the battle for a starting job.

Our number one draft choice, 6-8 Gary Bradds, and Hunter, 6-7, will be used to back up our regular forwards. Ferry, one of the best second-string pivot men in the league will back up Bellamy and give forward help if need be.

Another rookie, 6-4 Tom Bowman, also had a fine training period and will be fighting for a spot on the club.

# # #

THE DETROIT PISTONS...

By Charley Wolf, coach

Only one player remains from last year's opening day lineup. The Pistons will definitely sport the "new" look. The "new" look is designed for speed, agressiveness, versatility and a playoff berth.

The speed centers around our new men. Joe Caldwell, our top draft choice, and the three men acquired in our trade with Baltimore, Dischinger, Kojis and Thorn, all can run and are good fast-break men.

Donnis Butcher leads the way in agressiveness. He will be aided in this area by a determined, ever-improving Ray Scott, an inspiring Dave DeBusschere, hustling Jackie Moreland and newcomer Hub Reed.

Our versatility lies in DeBusschere, Dischinger, Kojis and Caldwell, who can play either forward or guard and in Scott and Reed who can play center or forward.

All of this adds up to a playoff spot if we can: 1. Get the ball off the board and, 2. Tighten up the defense. Reggie Harding's development can really give us a lift in both areas. At times last year he showed it could be done. If done consistently we could become a contender.

Dischinger could become the finest all-round star in the league. Thorn should be the "take charge" leader of the fast-break that we have sought. Scott should be the steady, dependable, clutch performer of last season and Harding could be one of the top rebounders and shot-blockers in the National Basketball Association.

There are a few "ifs" but if some come through, we'll make the playoffs and if most come through, we could battle it out for the top spot.

Any team can win in the Western Division because of the balance and it might well be the team that jumps off to a good start.

It should be an interesting National Basketball Association season.

# # #

THE BOSTON CELTICS...

By Coach Red Auerbach

We've got seven solid players back this year with the prospects of one more...

Our current sound seven are Captain Bill Russell, Tom Heinsohn, Willie Naulls, Tom Sanders, John Havlicek and the Jones boys, K.C. and Sam...We still hope that Frank Ramsey will finally change his mind and return.

This year we lost four players counting Ramsey. Frank and Jim Loscutoff retired, and Clyde Lovellette and John McCarthy called it a career. So we are faced with filling the vacancies.

We entertain strong hopes that our first draft choice, Mel Counts from Oregon State, will be of some help when he returns from the Olympics. Others, of course, are in the same situations, but it will be well into the season before we can find out how much our No. 1 draft can help.

Unless some trades materialize, rookies will have to fill the gaps. In camp we have Larry Siegfried; Ron Bonham, our second draftee; Johnny Thompson, from Providence College; Bob Nordmann, who played for New York last year; LaVern Tart, Bradley; and Ray Flynn, obtained from Philadelphia. That's 13 players, and of course, three will have to go.

We appear to have a fairly sound, experienced front court and three regular backcourt players available this season. It is in the backcourt that we will add one more and Werkman, Flynn, Siegfried and Tart are all battling for that job.

There's a spot open in the front court that Bonham and Counts will be fighting for...Russell, of course, needs some help this season and either Nordmann or Thompson will have to fill the bill there.

We've been lucky enough to win it all for the past six years and I must say that barring accidents to key players, we should be the ones to beat again this season.

THE CINCINNATI ROYALS...By Coach Jack McMahon

Cincinnati's surging Royals, are looking to their rookie crop to provide the defensive play we feel is needed to tip the balance.

Our club led the league last year, for the fourth straight season, in shooting percentage with a .452 mark and topped the scoring for the nine teams with an average of 114.7 points per game.

The Royals also piled up 55 victories, more than any club in NBA history outside of the Celts, but still maraged only a second place finish in the Eastern Division.

With NBA rookie of the year Jerry Lucas providing additional board strength, the Royals led as usual by the incomparable Oscar Robertson, topped the Celtics 7 to 5 in the season series, but were manhandled by Boston in the playoff.

Robertson led the league in assists (11.9) and free throw percentage (.853) and Lucas was tops in field goal percentage with a .527 mark. Lucas finishing third in the rebound department behind the Celts' Bill Russell and San Francisco's Wilt Chamberlain, provided a big assist to Capt. Wayne Embry in work off the boards that was a key factor in the Royals' fine record.

Veterans Jack Twyman at forward and Arlen Bockhorn at guard rounded out the starting five and the line-up was never weakened when I called on Tommy Hawkins for the front line and Adrian Smith at guard.

The fleet Smith was a starting guard during a surge in which we ran up a 12-game winning streak. Injuries to Twyman, Bockhorn, Lucas and Smith kept us off stride during most of the season and a back injury to Lucas during the playoffs proved fatal to our title hopes.

I was able to get an additional spark from the bench during the season with

Bud Olsen and Larry Staverman working up front and fast-moving Jay Arnette and Tom Thacker in the backcourt.

Out of the rookie ranks we have high hopes for former University of Cincinnati star George Wilson. The 6-8 forward is a standout in the Olympics, and will not be able to join us until after the Olympics in October.

We feel we may have a real find in Harold (Happy) Hairston, 6-7 forward from New York University.

Cincinnati is looking forward to giving the Celtics a run for their money in the new NBA season.

# # #

## THE PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

By Coach Dolph Schayes

What happened to the Philadelphia 76ers last season shouldn't happen to dogs. In my basketball career I've never known so much misfortune to hit a team in so many ways in injuries or in family deaths.

What happened last year is why I believe our club will do much better this season. Our third place finish last season was amazing when you figure that we didn't have Lee Shaffer, Larry Costello or Dave Gambee for half the season.

This year I look for bigger and better things from our club. One of our biggest problems--defensive rebounding--will be corrected by Ira Harge, our No. 2 draft pick from New Mexico, and later by Lucious Jackson, our No. 1 selection who is playing for the Olympic squad. These lads should get us the ball off the defensive boards and stop the opposition from getting those second and third shots at the basket. We were constantly out-rebounded a year ago, and if Harge and Jackson can help out Johnny Kerr, Chet Walker and the others, we will be right in the thick of the Eastern fight.

I don't look for Boston to dominate the race and I believe the Celtics will be dethroned by either Cincinnati or the 76ers. New York will be a vastly improved club also. In the West it looks like Baltimore to me with San Francisco the leading rival. Los Angeles and St. Louis also could figure in the race with Detroit in the rear.

We again will use a running game with possibly a little more set offense. We have a squad with depth and there really won't be starters on our team as at least eight men will be rotated in the leadoff assignments. We have plenty of strength in our backcourt and I look for Paul Neumann to have his biggest year. Hal Greer looms ready for another big scoring season, and Al Bianchi and Costello also will

be in there.

Kerr will operate at center as he has done for 754 straight games. He'll be giving breathing spells by Connie Dierking. Up front Walker will be a key man. He reached star status last season and this confidence should boost him to an even better year.

If we stay clear of the injury bugaboo, the 76ers will be the team to beat in the Eastern Division pennant fight.

# # #

THE NEW YORK KNICKS...

By Eddie Donovan, Coach

Speed, depth and defense should be three of our club's assets this season. I believe we now have the foundation to build a solid team for the future. But this doesn't mean we aren't ready now.

The big man we've so badly needed may finally have arrived in 6-10 Willis Reed (Grambling). During our training season Willis has shown a tremendous amount of desire. He's coachable and he plays both ends of the court. While it was no secret that he could score, I was pleasantly surprised at his defensive play and rebounding.

When Jim Barnes (Texas Western) joins our club after the Olympics, our board strength should be even more pronounced.

Barnes, 6-8, played in the middle at Texas Western, but we plan to use him primarily in the corner. There will be times, however, he may play center.

The two fine guards we also picked up in the draft, Howard Komives (Bowling Green) and Emmette Bryant (DePaul), both have looked excellent in workouts. Both have speed and if they make it, along with Johnny Egan, it will give us one of the fastest backcourts in the league.

Komives has shown the shooting accuracy which made him the college scoring leader last year, and he hawks his man at the other end of the court. Bryant, who like Komives is 6-1, is a smart, alert scrapper. He, too, shoots well and sticks with his man.

There is still the problem, however, of adjustment for the three rookies who survived our camp cuts. Reed didn't have too much major competition in college, while the other two had their college clubs conform to their play. With the Knickerbockers, it will take more of a team performance on their part.

John Rudometkin, who saw limited action the past two seasons, is another who looked good at camp. Len Chappell, our leading scorer last year, has slimmed down and is much quicker. Bob Boozer, whom we acquired about halfway through last season, has been doing well as has Johnny Green. Another of the forwards who has been real steady is Dave Budd.

Along with the rookie guards, we still have Egan, Tom Gola, Art Heyman, who now has a season under his belt, and Al Butler. This gives us depth at this position.

Along with Reed at center is Tom Hoover and Bill McGill. Hoover, too, has picked up a year's experience while McGill still tosses in his hooks with amazing accuracy.

Naturally, all can't stay because of the player limit, but whoever does, will give us a big advantage over last season. We made so many changes after leaving camp last year, getting Egan, Boozer, Chappell, Hoover and McGill that we didn't have a real chance to work together in practice once the season began.

# # #

LOS ANGELES LAKERS "AWAY" SCHEDULE --1964-65

| DAY | DATE | OPPONENT | L.A. TIME |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday | Oct. 17 | New York | 5:30 |
| Tuesday | 20 | Cincinnati | 6:15 |
| Wednesday | 21 | Baltimore | 5:30 |
| Friday | 23 | San Francisco | 8:30 |
| Thursday | Nov. 12 | New York | 5:45 2nd Gm.DH |
| Friday | 13 | Boston | 5:00 |
| Saturday | 14 | Baltimore | 5:30 |
| Sunday | 15 | Detroit | 5:00 |
| Saturday | 28 | San Francisco | 8:30 |
| Tuesday | Dec. 1 | Philadelphia | 5:30 |
| Wednesday | 2 | St. Louis | 6:30 |
| Friday | 4 | Cincinnati | 5:15 |
| Sunday | 6 | Phila. at Mpls. | 6:00 |
| Wednesday | 16 | Detroit | 5:00 |
| Thursday | 18 | Cincinnati | 5:15 |
| Monday | 28 | Boston | 6:00 2nd Gm.DH |
| Wednesday | 30 | Philadelphia | 6:15 2nd Gm.DH |
| Saturday | Jan. 2 | St. Louis | 6:30 |
| Sunday | 3 | St. Louis | 1:00 |
| Monday | 11 | Detroit | 5:00 |
| Thursday | 14 | Detroit | 5:00 |
| Friday | 15 | Cincinnati | 5:15 |
| Sunday | 17 | St. Louis | 11:00 |
| Sunday | 24 | Boston | 11:00 |
| Tuesday | 26 | New York | 5:45 2nd Gm.DH |
| Saturday | 30 | San Francisco | 8:30 |
| Tuesday | Feb. 2 | Detroit at Cleveland | 5:00 |
| Friday | 5 | Cincinnati | 5:15 |
| Saturday | 6 | Baltimore | 5:30 |
| Sunday | 7 | Boston | 11:00 |
| Saturday | 13 | San Francisco | 8:30 |
| Wednesday | 17 | New York | 5:30 |
| Thursday | 18 | Philadelphia | 5:30 |
| Friday | 19 | Baltimore | 5:30 |
| Sunday | 28 | Philadelphia at Syracuse | noon |
| Tuesday | Mar. 2 | Philadelphia at New York | 3:30 1st Gm.DH |
| Wednesday | 3 | Boston | 5:00 |
| Friday | 5 | New York | 5:45 2nd Gm.DH |
| Saturday | 6 | St. Louis | 6:30 |
| Friday | 12 | San Francisco | 8:30 |
| Tuesday | 16 | Detroit | 5:00 |
| Wednesday | 17 | Baltimore | 5:30 |

LOS ANGELES LAKERS HOME SCHEDULE

1964-65

| DAY | DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday | Oct. 28 | Baltimore | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 30 | Baltimore | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | Nov. 1 | St. Louis | 7:05 p.m. |
| Thursday | 5 | New York | 8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | 7 | San Francisco | 8:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 10 | New York | 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 18 | Cincinnati | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 20 | Cincinnati | 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 25 | Detroit | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 27 | Detroit | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | 29 | Baltimore | 7:05 p.m. |
| Tuesday | Dec. 8 | Boston | 8:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | 10 | St. Louis | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | Dec. 13 | Detroit | 7:05 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 15 | Detroit | 8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | 19 | Philadelphia | 8:30 p.m. |
| Monday | 21 | New York | 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 23 | Philadelphia | 8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | 26 | San Francisco | 8:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | Jan. 7 | Boston | 8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | 9 | Boston | 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 20 | New York | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 22 | New York | 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 27 | Cincinnati | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 29 | Cincinnati | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | 31 | San Francisco | 7:05 p.m. |
| Monday | Feb. 8 | Philadelphia | 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 10 | Philadelphia | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 12 | San Francisco | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | 21 | Boston | 7:05 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 24 | Boston | 8:30 p.m. |
| Friday | 26 | St. Louis | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | Mar. 7 | Cincinnati | 7:05 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 9 | Baltimore | 8:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | 11 | Baltimore | 8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | 13 | St. Louis | 8:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | 14 | St. Louis | 7:05 p.m. |
| Saturday | 20 | San Francisco | 8:30 p.m. |

Wednesday is Ladies Night (Ladies in at half-price in $3.50, $3 or $2 seats)

Every game "Kids Night"--Juniors 16 and under in at half price ($3.50, $3 or $2 seats)